

Claims:

1. A communication system comprising:
a plurality of users with which presence information is
5 associated, said presence information comprising a plurality
of parts;
means for storing information defining at least one
group, said group containing a plurality of users, and
means for providing information defining for said at
10 least one user of said group what parts of said presence
information are to be provided.
2. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said parts of
said presence information is provided to at a requester in
15 response to request from said requester.
3. A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said requester is
one of said plurality of said users.
- 20 4. A system as claimed in claim 2 or 3 wherein said parts
of said presence information is available only to one
requester or to a plurality of requesters.
- 25 5. A system as claimed in claim 2, 3 or 4, wherein said
parts of said information provided is dependent on the
identity of the requester.
6. A system as claimed in claim 5, comprising means for
determining the identity of the requester making said request.
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7. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said
storing means comprises a presence server.

8. A system as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein said means for providing said information comprises a storage means.

5 9. A system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said means for storing and said providing means are provided by a common storage means.

10 10. A system as claimed in any of claim 1 to 8, wherein said means for providing said information comprises one of said users.

15 11. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein a separate address is provided for each of a plurality of groups.

12. A system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein said users comprise user equipment.

20 13. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said presence information comprises at least one of the following parts of information: Subscriber status; Network status; communication means; Contact address, Subscriber provided location; Network provided location; text; priority; mood,
25 favourite colour

14. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said providing means provides information as to the parts of said presence information required.

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15. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said providing means provides information as to the parts of said presence information not required.

16. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the parts of the presence information to be obtained is the same for all of at least one group.

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17. A system as claimed in any of claims 1 to 15, wherein the parts of the presence information to be obtained are different for at least two users at least one group.

10 18. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the system operates in accordance with a session initiation protocol (SIP).

15 19. A system as claimed in claim 18, wherein said request for said presence information is made in a SUBSCRIBE request.

20. A system as claimed in claim 19, wherein the providing means comprise a SIP SUBSCRIBE message

20 21. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said storing means is arranged to receive presence information from the users of said group.

25 22. A system as claimed in claim 21, wherein said storing means is arranged to provide the parts of the presence information to be provided.

30 23. A system as claimed in any of claims 1 to 21, wherein an entity associated with a user or a user of the group is arranged to provide to the parts of the presence information to be provided.

24. A system as claimed in claim 23, wherein said entity comprises a presence server.

5 25. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said storing means is arranged to add said parts of presence information to a request sent to said user or an entity associated with said user.

10 26. A system as claimed in claim 2 or any claim appended thereto, wherein when said storage means receives from said requester, said storage means inserts the parts of presence information into a request sent to said user or an entity associated with said user.

15 27. A communication method comprising the steps of:
defining at least one group, said group containing a plurality of users with which presence information is associated, said presence information comprising a plurality of parts, and
20 defining for said at least one user of said group what parts of said presence information are to be provided.

25 28. A method as claimed in claim 27, comprising the step of filtering the presence information for at least one user of the group to obtain the defined parts of said presence information.

30 29. A method as claimed in claim 27 or 28, comprising the step of requesting for at least one user of said group said defined parts of said presence information.

30. A communications entity comprising:

means for storing first information defining at least one group, said group containing a plurality of users with which presence information is associated, said presence information comprising a plurality of parts, and second information
5 defining for said at least one user of said group what parts of said presence information are to be provided.